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Poultry Students See Futures So Bright

By Dr. James Denton, Director
Center of Excellence for Poultry Science

Each spring the end of the academic year brings a time of reflection upon the significant accomplishments of the past year as well as a glimpse of what the future holds, not only for our graduating students but also for the Arkansas poultry industry. The career opportunities in the poultry industry continue to increase, often exceeding the number of graduating students available for employment. This is the sign of a dynamic and expanding industry.

Beginning with the annual Poultry Science Club Awards Banquet, continuing through the College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Scholarship Luncheon, Honors Convocation and finally culminating with graduation activities, our faculty and staff are reminded of the primary purpose which we serve in helping each young person prepare for their future careers. It is truly rewarding to observe the remarkable transformation from the anxious, uncertain and largely untapped potential of the freshmen students to the competent and confident young people who planned and conducted the annual Poultry Science Awards Banquet. Not only have they demonstrated the individual creativity and initiative to structure this outstanding program, but they have also learned to work together as part of a team, which is one of the most important skills needed to succeed in their new career.

Sharing in the sense of pride and

excitement for our outstanding students who were recognized during the Scholarship Luncheon and Honors Convocation served as the prelude for the main event. For the faculty in our program there is nothing to compare with the wonderful experience of sharing commencement activities with our students and their families. For the students, this celebration

recognizes the culmination of many hours of commitment and hard work. For the parents, it represents the realization of a lifetime of dreams and aspirations for their child, the most treasured gift in life. We experience, in a small way, feelings similar to being a parent as our students leave the poultry science family.

(See *Future* Page 2)



Poultry science graduate **Belinda Floyd** receives her diploma during the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Science commencement May 9.

1998 Poultry Science Graduates

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Jason B. Braziel,* Hot Springs
Tammie D. Conway,* Beebe
Darrin W. Dodson, Monette, MO
Belinda Floyd, Huntsville
Christine A. Fritts, Huntsville
David C. Jenkins,** DeQueen
William H. Jones, Huntsville
Brenda D. Kidd, Huntsville
Leasea D. Mullikin, Bentonville
Leonard Cody Polley, Huntsville
Lance L. Price,** Springdale

James C. Scanlon,** Fayetteville

Jeffery G. Sexton, Batesville

Jared S. Thomson,** Green Forest
Summa Cum Laude

Keith R. Halterman,** Fayetteville
Cum Laude

Kenneth J. Hanson, Fayetteville

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Chi-Ching (Sally) Foong

Lisa L. Kinder

*Degree requirements completed August 1997 **Degree requirements completed December 1997

Luttrell Joins College as Associate Dean for Academics



Randall G. "Randy" Luttrell, who received his master's degree in 1978 and doctorate in 1981 from the U of A, both in entomology, will return to his alma mater in July as the

College's associate dean for academics.

Randy Luttrell was raised in a rural environment near DeKalb, Texas, and was influenced by his high school agriculture teacher to attend Texas A&M University.

"Working with students and remaining close to production agriculture were among my career goals. These goals have never changed," he says.

As an entomology graduate student at the University of Arkansas, he says, "I observed another career model (entomologist Bill Yearian) who introduced me to a world of new scientific concepts and hands-on problem solving in a practical agricultural environment.

Consortium Represented in D.C.

The Food Safety Consortium was recently represented at an exhibition sponsored by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). The exhibition of university agricultural research projects was part of a reception on May 19 in Washington at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

The Consortium displayed a poster depicting highlights of its federally funded research projects at the University of Arkansas, Iowa State University and Kansas State University. Several members of congressional staffs, U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel and representatives of other universities stopped by the display and obtained background information about the Consortium's work.

James Denton, a member of the Consortium steering committee and director of the University of Arkansas

"The research problems being addressed seemed to be extremely important, and I liked the idea of doing something to improve agriculture," he says.

"Our land-grant system offers many opportunities to repeat this type of mentoring and recruiting through the increased involvement of all agricultural scientists in our academic programs."

Luttrell has been at Mississippi State University for the past 16 years as lead scientist for cotton insect pest management and a teacher of entomology and other courses.

He has served as acting head of the entomology department and was undergraduate coordinator for the department of entomology and plant pathology.

He helped establish, coordinated and was major advisor for a popular new B.S. major in agricultural pest management.

He and his wife, Connee, have two children. Mrs. Luttrell is well-known at MSU as manager of the popular flower store on campus and as a floral design instructor.

Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, represented the Consortium at the exhibition and answered questions about its research. **Dave Edmark**, public relations director for the Consortium, assisted Denton.

Participants at the exhibition presented 47 displays describing research efforts at universities to augment agricultural yields, to produce more nutritious and safer food, to find solutions to environmental problems and to develop skills to manage risk in the global market. NASULGC called for greater federal support of agricultural research, citing an erosion of such funding in recent years.

"Shortchanging the food and agricultural system with its unique USDA/land-grant university partnership at this juncture would interrupt the advances of the past half-century and impede our future progress," NASULGC said.

Future . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

One of the privileges of serving as the head of the Department of Poultry Science is having the opportunity to visit one-on-one with each graduating student during the exit interview process. Reminiscing about their academic careers, sharing in their enthusiasm for their new jobs, learning of their short term goals and long term aspirations is both gratifying from a personal perspective and exciting from a professional perspective.

To our students, we say congratulations for a job well done. We are expecting great things from you. To our industry employers we say, your next generation of employees is capable, bright and hard working. They will serve you well. The future for both our students and our industry is very bright.

Poultry Pick for Upward Bound

The Department of Poultry Science hosted three students during the University of Arkansas Upward Bound Program this summer.

Upward Bound students throughout Northwest Arkansas attend a six-week course on the UA campus which combines intensive academic training with personal development activities.

Drs. Amy Waldroup, Robert Wideman and Jason Emmert were a few members of the CEPS faculty and staff conducting poultry classes for the students.

PARTNERS is a newsletter for faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, UA-Fayetteville.

Dr. James Denton, CEPS Director and Poultry Science Department Head.

Co-editors: **Shawna Sexton and Diana Bisbee**



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Hands-on Poultry Workshop Held

The Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Arkansas and Oklahoma State University sponsored the first hands-on poultry workshop at the CES Broiler Energy Verification Unit at Savoy June 10.

Approximately forty people attended the workshop where they received practical information on wind speed and fans, summer cooling and ventilation, alternative bedding materials, ammonia control and practical tips on energy conservation.

Several members of the Center of Excellence faculty and staff and **Drs. Jim Britton** and **Joe Berry**, OSU, participated in the workshop

Mark Mobley from SWEPCO offered energy conservation tips and **Jim Wimberly** from the Foundation for Organic Resources Management discussed the wood pellet furnace which will be installed at Savoy this fall. Also, **Dr. Don Cawthon**, Texas A&M University, had an in-vessel composter on display.

First Producers Symposium Sees Positive Results

The first Arkansas Poultry Producers Symposium, organized and sponsored by the Arkansas Poultry Federation, was held April 9 at the Holiday Inn in Springdale.

This symposium followed the annual two-day APF Poultry Symposium and attracted over 500 participants.

The morning session included general interest topics including environmental issues and feed withdrawal practices. The afternoon breakout sessions addressed ventilation, heating, litter and nutrient management and tax and financial management issues.

Drs. Frank Jones and **Susan**

Watkins, CEPS, gave presentations on HACCP, litter management and nutrient management plans for litter application.

Attendees also viewed exhibits by several equipment and pharmaceutical suppliers during breaks and lunch.

Dr. H.L. Goodwin, Jr., CEPS, said participants were very positive regarding the overall usefulness of the symposium and felt that having the symposium "was a step in the right direction" for the industry.

Faculty Active in Annual Symposium

Approximately 672 poultry industry personnel and extension agents attended the Arkansas Poultry Symposium April 7-8 in Springdale. The general sessions covered topics from the industry outlook and retirement planning to how to raise healthy chickens.

Dr. Susan Watkins, Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, gave an

update on alternative bedding materials and **Dr. Dayton Steelman**, CEPS, spoke on darkling beetle control. **Dr. Frank Jones**, CEPS, spoke on quality assurance programs for commercial egg operations.

The symposium was planned and conducted by the Arkansas Poultry Federation.

Dr. Clark graduated in 1980 from Texas A&M University with his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He then practiced in Texas before entering a residency program in avian medicine at the University of California Veterinary School at Davis. After his residency, he returned to Texas A&M University in 1982 and received an M.S. degree in Veterinary Microbiology in 1984.

Dr. Clark received the C.S. Edson Award for Excellence in Research on Avian Diseases in 1987 while on the faculty at Texas A&M University.

He received his Ph.D. in 1991 in Veterinary Pathobiology from Texas A&M University. His dissertation

research involved reovirus pathogenicity and genomic comparisons.

Dr. Clark was director of the Utah State University Provo Branch Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory from

1988 to 1994. He also was supervisor of the Utah National Poultry Improvement Program and Extension Veterinarian (avian

species) in the Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Science Department of Utah State University.

Dr. Clark is a diplomate of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians.

Dr. Clark joined the Poultry Science faculty of the University of Arkansas in

1994 as Assistant Professor/Extension Poultry Health Veterinarian. His research interests include reoviruses, rotaviruses, and avian diagnostics. He is also responsible for working with the poultry industry on disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention of gentian violet in the drinking water.

Dr. Clark enjoys teaching avian anatomy and diseases at the U of A.

"Since one of the keys to understanding the biology and physiology of poultry is an understanding of the anatomy; it is important that students have a working knowledge of poultry anatomy," Clark said.

Most of his veterinary has been in diagnostic veterinary medicine which allowed him to observe the actions of disease on the anatomic structures of various animal and bird species. He said these experiences enable him to teach students from a unique perspective of cause and effects in addition to structure identification.

faculty profile

F. Dustan Clark





Students Salute Classmates and Mentors at Annual Banquet

Poultry science students gathered with their families, friends and mentors to celebrate the accomplishments of fellow students and faculty members at the 6th annual awards banquet, April 24.

Erin Weaver, Poultry Science Club president, presided over the banquet and **Hugh McClain**, McClain Farms, was the guest speaker.

Graduating seniors were recognized by **Dr. James Denton**, department head and Center director, and 1999 scholarship recipients were recognized by **Dr. Susan Watkins**, Extension poultry specialist.

"Special" honors were awarded to some faculty members, friends and

students. **Dr. Susan Watkins** received the best mentor award for the second year, **Dr. Dustan Clark** received the hard nose award and **Drs. Park and Amy Waldroup** received the best dressed award. **Marty Gray, Mike Galpin, Rodney Wolfe, Judy England, Denise Johnson, John Johnson, Donna Tinsley** and **Brenda Kidd** received friends of poultry science awards.

Student awards went to **Darby Spurlock** for being "most likely to be remembered" and "least likely to return from Atlanta", **Belinda Floyd** for being "best dressed" and **Thomas Bolinger** for being "most likely to deep muscle band a chick".



(Top photo) **Brenda Kidd** presents **Dr. Susan Watkins** with the best mentor award during the Poultry Science Banquet. (Bottom photo) **Dr. Walter Bottje** provides dinner music for the banquet.

Poultry Industry Offers Experience to Interns

Approximately twenty-one poultry science students are participating in internships or summer jobs with the poultry industry this year.

During the past year, **Susan Watkins**, Center of Excellence internship coordinator, contacted several poultry operations in Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Texas to evaluate company interest in participating in the UA poultry science intern program.

"Almost every operation responded positively and the result has been a high placement of students into the industry with the opportunity to obtain hands-on experience," Watkins said.

The following students are interning or working with the industry this summer: **Bart Karnes**, Cobb Vantress in Siloam Springs; **Shaun Bolinger** and **Thomas Bolinger**, Grainger in Springdale; **Gabe Wight** and **Bobby James**, Georges' in Springdale; **Crystal Cornish**, Tyson Foods in Hendersonville, TN; **David Austin** and **Randy Yate**, Peterson Farms in Decatur; **Andy Lowry**, Pilgrim's Pride in Pittsburgh, TX; **Clint Little**, Pilgrim's Pride in DeQueen; **Chris Harris**, Ross Breeders in Salisaw, OK; **Chad Clem**, Honeysuckle White in Springdale; **Patricia Moore**, Tyson Foods R&D in Springdale; **Scott Ramer**, Tyson Foods in Springdale; **Aaron Barrett**, Tyson Foods in Grannis; **Branson Pyle**, Simmons Foods in Van Buren; **Brandon Champion** and **Darby Spurlock**, Madison County Conservation Service in Huntsville; **John Smalley**, UA Broiler Farm at Savoy; **Padgett McClain**, Arkansas Farm Bureau and Center of Excellence for Poultry Science, **Barrett Yates**, Center of Excellence for Poultry Science Feedmill and **Jerick Hutchinson** and **Philip Harmon**, Tyson Foods, Berry Street in Springdale.

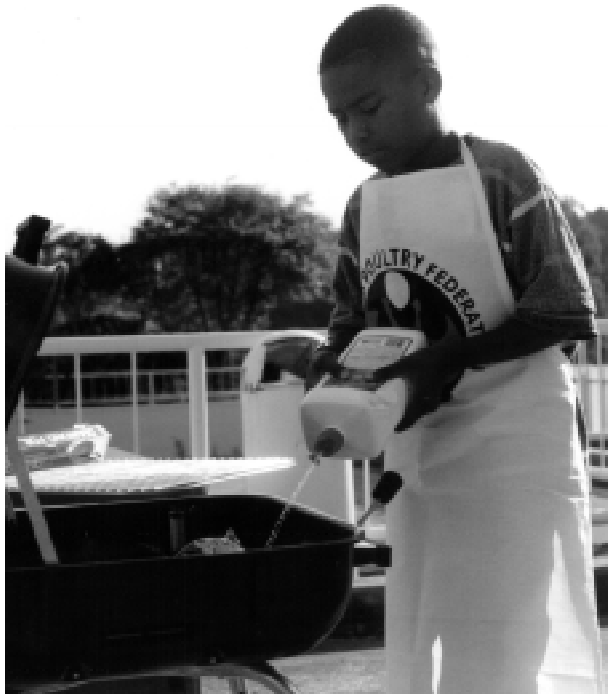


John Smalley, Center of Excellence intern, checks the temperature of the in-vessel composter in preparation for the Hands-On Poultry Workshop at the Savoy CES-BEV facility.

Spicing Things Up . . .

(Right) Center of Excellence for Poultry Science faculty members and students spice up their chicken during the 1998 APF Poultry Festival in Hot Springs. The University of Arkansas team finished second in the collegiate competition behind the team from Southern Arkansas University. (Below) **Mike Doyle**, Center of Excellence, mans the grills for the UA team during the contest.

(Lower right) **Carrington Williams**, Lee County, prepares his grill for the 4-H state barbecue contest during the Poultry Festival. Williams was the Junior Winner of the contest. The 4-H Senior Winner was **Stephen Brannon** of Madison County.



Experts Gather for Roundtable

A Salmonella reduction roundtable was held May 4 in conjunction with the American Feed Industry Association annual meeting in Dallas, Texas. Experts from North Carolina State University, National Pork Producers Council, Food and Drug Administration, National Renderers Association and CEPS faculty member **Dr. Frank Jones** discussed up-to-date Salmonella control techniques. Jones discussed his findings from a recent survey of Salmonella contamination in feed manufacturing facilities. Pfizer Animal Health sponsored the roundtable.

Russians Visit

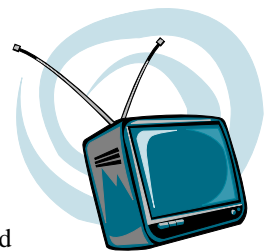
Tyson Foods Inc. hosted a Russian delegation for three weeks here in Northwest Arkansas. The Center participated in a three day information exchange program with the 11 Russians, and two interpreters. The visitors came from all walks of life, and were in some way associated with the poultry industry in their country. The visit with the Poultry Science department included a tour of the main teaching and research building as well as other departmental facilities.

CEPS Highlight of Talk Show

Drs. James Denton, Nick Anthony, Walter Bottje and Frank Jones appeared in two segments of the half-hour television talk show *Ozark Spotlight*.

The show, hosted by **Delma DeLaFuente**, accented the formation of the center as well as the teaching, research and extension programs conducted within the center. The programs were aired April 13, 15, 20 and 22.

Ozark Spotlight appears on cable channel 22 in Springdale, Monday and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.



Visit the
Center of Excellence
for Poultry Science
Web Site

www.uark.edu/depts/posc/poultry.html

Faculty Notes

Dr. Gisela Erf was promoted to Associate Professor and received her award of tenure appointment in April.

Dr. Craig Coon was invited as one of three speakers for the second year to participate in the LANCE (Centro Latinoamericano De Nutricion Animal) program in San Jose, Costa Rica March 29 through April 6, 1998. He recently toured Asia and was invited to speak at Feed Manufacturing and Poultry Association meetings in Shenyang, April 13, in Qingdao April 14, in Shanghai April 15, and in Guangzhou, China April 16. He was also invited to speak at the 1998 Feed Manufacturing Technology Short Course at Taichung University, Taiwan April 17. Dr. Coon was an invited speaker for the Indonesia Feed Manufacturing meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia April 21, and gave two presentations titled "The Metabolizable Energy and Amino Acid Requirements



(From Left) **Chris Andrews**, ASA - Istanbul; **Fatih Tarhaw**, ASA - Turkey; **Taner Tarhaw**, Food and Industry Representative, Turkey, and **Dr. Craig Coon**, CEPS, visit the underground cities of Goreme during the 4th International Conference of Turkey Feed Manufacturers in Cappadocia, Turkey.

of Layers" and "The Retainable Phosphorus Requirements of Broilers". Dr. Coon recently presented two seminars in Ankara, Turkey May 1 to the Turkey Poultry Association. The invited talks were "The Effect of Environmental Temperature and Nutrition on Optimum Layer Performance" and "The Effect of

Environmental Temperature on Energy, Protein, and Amino Acid Requirements for Broilers". He also was invited to attend the 4th International Conference and Exhibition in Cappadocia, Turkey in May where he presented a paper titled "The present and future utilization of biotechnology in the feed industry: A poultry nutritionist's perspective".

Grants Awarded

F.D. Clark. Embrex, Inc. Safety of NDV Vaccine Administered in Ovo. \$7,015.

Dr. J.H. Denton. USDA-ARS. Facilities Project. \$20,000.

Dr. J.K. Skeeles. Tyson Foods, Inc. Growout of Turkeys for Vaccine. \$13,680.

Dr. P.W. Waldroup. Alltech, Inc. The Use of Vegpro in Turkey Diets. \$4,600.

Dr. S.E. Watkins. Finnfed International. Poultry Nutrition. \$1,767.

Center Closeout Celebrated

The Center hosted a barbecue April 10 to celebrate the final closeout of the poultry science building contract.

Invited guests included people who worked on the building during the past two years, architects, contractors, UA physical plant employees, students, faculty members and administrators.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make this building a fabulous place to work!

Bureau Updated

Officials from the Arkansas Farm Bureau were provided with a research overview at the Center of Excellence March 26.

The event, planned by **Dr. Susan Watkins** and hosted by **Dr. Frank Jones**, included presentations by **Dr. Amy Waldroup**, **Dr. Ron Okimoto**, **Dr. Mark Parcells**, **Dr. Craig Coon**, **Dr. Jason Emmert**, **Gary Davis** and **Shawna Sexton**.

Farm Bureau Officials were given tours of the Center building and the Elm Springs Breeder Research Unit.

APF Advisory Committee Meets

The Arkansas Poultry Federation Technical Advisory Committee held its second quarter meeting May 1 to discuss important issues of Arkansas' poultry industry.

The agenda included USDA program thrusts, GIS mapping project, and updates on National Meat and Poultry HACCP Alliance and the National Alliance for Food Safety.

Student Notes

SuiYang Wang won the Poultry Science Association Graduate Student Research Manuscript Award for 1998. Wang received a certificate and \$300 for her presentation on "Hepatic Export of Glutathione and Uptake of Constituent Amino Acids, Glutamate and Cysteine, In Broilers In vivo" at the 1997 PSA meeting in Athens, Georgia.

The annual Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences Scholarship Luncheon was held April 16 at

the University of Arkansas. Over 20 poultry science 1997-98 scholarship recipients and their scholarship sponsors were honored at the event..

The DBCAFLS Honors Convocation followed the luncheon and recognized outstanding students and faculty members.

Erin Weaver was honored as the outstanding senior for poultry science, and **SuiYing Wang** was honored as the outstanding poultry science graduate student.